

Report on	Correspondence to Council – May 2020
Date of Meeting	Thurs 28 th May 2020
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from the Minister of Finance, Northern Ireland Executive</p> <p>It was resolved by Council at its April meeting that it correspond with the Minister of Finance to request that consideration be given to Rate Relief being extended to businesses for a 12 month period, commensurate with that introduced for the retail, tourism and hospitality sectors in England. Appendix A refers to response received from the Minister.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from NILGA</p> <p>The NILGA President, Cllr Frances Burton has written to all Councils with an update on its activity and focus in supporting local government throughout Coronavirus outbreak. Appendix B refers to the update.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Michael Creed TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Government of Ireland</p> <p>The council at its February meeting carried the motion as detailed. Appendix C refers to response received from the Government of Ireland.</p> <p><i>That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agriculture industry is in a state of crisis due to unprecedented low farmgate prices. Mid Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved Government and the British and Irish Governments to invest in Local Farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit. We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for</i></p>

	<i>an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and the food service industry. That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible</i>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A: C Murphy, MLA, Minister of Finance, Northern Ireland Executive</p> <p>Appendix B: Councillor Burton, President, NILGA</p> <p>Appendix C: M Creed TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Govt. of Ireland</p>